

SW
Please file

Bond Release Findings

Mine Name: Kaibab Mill Site
Operator: Kaibab Industries
4602 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85018

I.D. No.: S0170038
Mineral Ownership: BLM
Surface Ownership: BLM
Permit Term: Year original permit granted

Disturbed Area: 2.3 Acres
Regraded: 2.3 Acres
Reseeded: 2.3 Acres

Acres Bonded: None
Acres Proposed for Release: 2.3
Acres Recommended for Release: 2.3

Surety

Amount: No surety being held
Form: N/A
Renewable Term: N/A

Setting and Premining Environment

This site is located near the base of the Henry Mountains in Garfield county. The area is nearly flat with adjacent cliffs. Most of the soils are sandy, and vegetation in the area is a desert grass/shrub community. Dominant species include galleta, snakeweed, fourwing saltbush, alkali sacaton, and Ephedra.

The area is prone to periodic heavy rain during the summer months, and while it is nearly flat with no well defined channels, runoff from adjacent areas sometimes comes on to the site. Photos taken before the site was reclaimed show areas across which water had run, but the water courses are shallow.

Operations

No operations remain at the site; it is fully reclaimed.

This was classified as a mill site with no mining. It is not clear from the Notice of Intention, inspection reports, or annual reports exactly what operations occurred at this site. Material from nearby mines was brought to this location, but there is no indication any of it was processed here. It may have served as a transfer station and as a place to store equipment. The area was fenced, but any other facilities appear to have been mobile.

Hole Plugging

No holes were drilled or plugged

Reclamation

The site was reclaimed in 2001-2004. Reclamation consisted of removing equipment and trash, removing or burying remaining ore, covering these areas with soil, and seeding the site. Some of the ore may have been backfilled against the cliffs. There were no highwalls, shafts, adits, or other similar features that might create hazards. All roads and parking/loading/dumping areas have been reclaimed.

The operator did a very good job grading the site and making it match surrounding areas. Most of the area is flat, and there is essentially no difference in topography between regraded and undisturbed areas.

There are no impoundments or drainage channels and no signs of accelerated erosion, and there are no indications deleterious materials were ever stored here.

Revegetation

The postmining land uses are grazing and wildlife habitat. Based on the grading, soils, and revegetation, the site has met these uses.

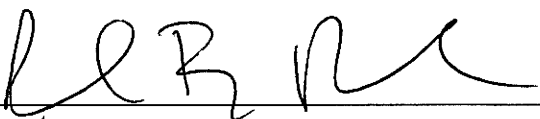
Native soils are poorly developed and mostly sandy, but there are some soils derived from shale. It is likely that no soils were salvaged and that some of the surface material was graded over the site, including excess or waste material. There is some gravel on the surface indicating there might have been a graveled parking area or road, but adjacent areas also have some gravel-sized material on the surface.

It is very difficult to tell which parts of the area were reclaimed and which are undisturbed, and although I attempted to measure cover in these areas, I was not confident what areas had and had not been disturbed. Because these boundaries are not known, a quantitative assessment of vegetation cover is not possible.


There are clearly areas where halogeton and Russian thistle predominate, and I assume these were disturbed, but most of these areas also have native vegetation with more volunteer vegetation becoming established each year. There are no noxious weeds, and it has been three growing seasons since the site was seeded.

Recommendation

I recommend that the site be released. The BLM has already released the area.



Inspector



Date